

OCT -3 1917 ✓

The Hermit Crab - sometimes called the Soldier Crab because of a fancied resemblance it is supposed to bear to a soldier in a fort - has no protection for the hinder part of its body. This being vulnerable, it resorts to the smart device of tenenting the shells of some other crustacean. Before entering it, the crab makes certain that there is no one within to dispute its right of ownership. It then whips the unprotected part of its anatomy into the new habitation and does not separate from it until its body has grown too large for the shell to hold. It then goes in search of a roomier one. One sometimes observes on the sea-shore a shell travelling at an abnormal rate of speed. When approached the motion suddenly ceases, the shell collapses and lies on the ground an inert mass. On examining it - as by cutting it in two we discover that the curious behavior of the crustacean was due to its use by the Hermit Crab as habitation.

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